

A photograph of a white, two-story cottage with a brown tiled roof and a stone church tower in the background. The cottage has several windows with flower boxes and a small sign above the entrance. The scene is set in a rural village with a road leading towards the church.

# Fertile farms in the heart of Kent

A bright sunny day is perfect for enjoying the rich and fertile Kent countryside and outstanding views across the valley of the Great Stour to the North Downs. This circular walk starts in the historic grounds of St James' Church in the rural village of Egerton.



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**Location:** Egerton, near Ashford

**Distance:** 3.1 miles (5km)

**Time:** allow 2 hours

**Explorer Map:** 137

**Terrain:** Paths mainly cross arable and pasture fields

**Stiles:** 8

**Public transport:** for information about local bus and train services in Kent, contact Traveline tel: 0871 200 22 33, [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**Step count:** approx 6,510

Farming is still key to the economy of this area of Kent and its many small villages. Along the route old and more recently planted apple orchards stand alongside extensive arable fields while cattle and sheep graze the slopes of the Greensand Ridge.



Follow the waymarked Greensand Way through the gate from the churchyard and into the apple orchards with their spectacular displays of blossom in Spring and plentiful harvests of fruit in Autumn. Head alongside the tall stone walls surrounding Egerton House and through the gate, passing Foxden Lodge on the right. Early views across the Great Stour open out to the right.

Cross over the road and into the fields where the land begins to fall away gradually and springs make the earth soft underfoot. Small areas of woodland shield the fields and crops from crosswinds breaking up the landscape as the Greensand Way heads across small streams.

At the junction turn left along the byway leaving the Greensand Way and continue downhill along the edge of Coldbridge Wood. At the end of the surfaced track you reach a gate, pass through this gate and follow the field edge marked with wooden posts to reach a crossroads with a footpath. From here you head south west towards the fingerpost at the far side of the pasture field.

The route then crosses Egerton House Road to head uphill along the footpath directly opposite. Continue along this path following the hedgeline on your left until reaching a stile. After crossing the stile continue ahead to reach Link Hill Lane next to Link Cottage.

At Link Hill Lane turn left and take the path directly ahead up the steps and into the arable field.

The route passes along the edge of the field with the tower of St James' in Egerton clearly visible. Take the path alongside the village school and the stone steps down to the road in the centre of the village.



Egerton is home to many listed properties such as Egerton House, St. James' Church and a Tumulus, which is a Bronze Age burial ground.

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## look out for...

- Stained glass and Darell Monuments, St James' Church, Egerton
- Orchards
- Pheasants
- Cattle
- Sheep
- Horses
- Arable crops
- Beacon at Boughton Malherbe

## did you know?

*Egerton Village Store and Post Office stocks a wide range of Kent produce including Egerton cookies, jams made at nearby Wye and Pluckley tea.*

There is a tomb to Sir John Darell who served Henry VII in St James' Church, Egerton. Sir John died in 1509.

*The chandelier in St James' Church is lit by 36 candles.*

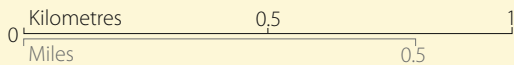
The flagpole outside St Nicholas Church, Boughton Malherbe, was erected to mark the Millennium.

*Queen Elizabeth 1 visited Bocton Hall, now Boughton Place.*

Legend claims that the Old Rectory, at Boughton Malherbe, was haunted by the ghost of a monk. It is said that a former rector used to offer lodgings to passing tramps just to test the reputation of the house's haunted room. No-one is thought to have stayed in the room for more than an hour or two.



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- Greensand Way
- Public House
- Stile
- Gate